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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

ARCHERY HUNTER POST CARD SURVEY

Pittman-Robertson Project W-15-R

Job No. 5-56

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Report for the period

September 15 to November 1, 1956

ARCHERY HUNTER POST CARD SURVEY

By William J. Bailey, Jr.

ABSTRACT

Completed questionnaires submitted by persons holding archery permits to take deer in 1956 showed that 10.2 percent of these hunters were successful. The total kill of 28 deer consisted of 8 fallow deer, 8 white-tailed deer and 10 mule deer. The recreation provided by bow-and-arrow hunting was considerable, 42 percent of the archers spending seven days or more in the field. About 64 percent reported taking at least one shot at deer.

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

State of Nebraska

Project No. W-15-R Job No. 5-56

Title of Job: Archery Hunter Post Card Survey

Objectives: To obtain information on the following:

1. Success of archery hunters.
2. Sex composition of the kill.
3. Crippling loss.
4. Miscellaneous information pertaining to archery hunting in Nebraska.

General: The 1956 archery season was the second special archery season in Nebraska. The season was divided into two parts: (1) Bow and arrow hunters were allowed to hunt on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest from September 15 through 25 and (2) archers were allowed to hunt from October 11 through November 13 in an area which included all or parts of twenty-three counties along the Missouri River and the eastern portion of the Platte River. No restrictions were placed on numbers of permits to be issued and 275 applied for and received special archery permits.

Techniques Used: Arrangements were made with local law enforcement officers to inspect and officially seal each animal killed. Successful archers were required to present their animals intact, except for entrails, to one of these officers. At the close of the season a letter of instruction and a self-addressed post card questionnaire were forwarded to each permittee. Each archer was requested to complete and return the questionnaire immediately.

Findings: Of the 275 questionnaires sent out, 179 or 65.2 percent were returned.

Success of archers increased considerably over that of 1955. The total 1956 harvest was 28 deer. Hunting success was 10.2 percent as compared to slightly more than four percent in 1955. The increase in successful hunters can be attributed to expansion of the open area to include areas of higher deer populations.

Twenty-five deer were reported crippled by those archers responding to the questionnaire. The ratio of reported cripples to the known kill was 1:1.12. This ratio is probably conservative. During the season on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest, five deer were killed and nine were known to have been wounded, making a ratio of 1.8 crippled for each one successfully bagged.

Sixty-two archers registered at Forest Headquarters for the hunt on the National Forest. Of these, five were successful. All deer killed on the forest were mule deer.

From the reports of archers, the best success was realized from the fallow deer herd in Wheeler County. Twenty-nine reported hunting in this county, killing seven fallow deer and one mule deer. In addition to those taken in Wheeler County, one fallow deer was reported killed in Boone County. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the 1956 archery kill and the following table presents the sex and species composition.

	Fallow Deer		White-tailed		Mule Deer		Unknown	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	6	2	4	4	4	6		
Totals	8		8		10		2	28
Percent	28.6		28.6		35.7		7.1	100.0

The 1956 archery season provided considerable recreation to those participating in the hunt. Although only 28 deer were killed, most of the archers had an opportunity for a kill. Of 171 answering the question on number of shots taken, about 64 percent reported taking at least one shot and 42 percent indicated three or more shots.

About 42 percent of the archers responding were able to be in the field seven days or more. The following table shows the distribution of the number of days hunted.

No. Day in Field	No. Hunters Reporting	Percent of Total Hunters Reporting
0	6	3.4
1-3	38	21.7
4-6	57	32.5
7-9	23	13.1
10-12	28	16.0
13-15	10	5.7
16 plus	13	7.4
Totals	175	99.8

The distance at which 24 deer were killed varied from a reported 7 to 49 yards. The average distance was 29.3 yards.

Recommendations: With an additional increase of areas open to archery hunting, a check station technique will be increasingly difficult to establish and maintain. Therefore, it is recommended that check stations for archers be abolished. A kill tag should be forwarded to each archer with a detachable kill report. The archer should be required to attach the kill tag to the animal before it is transported and to forward the detachable kill report to the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission within twenty-four (24) hours after killing a deer.

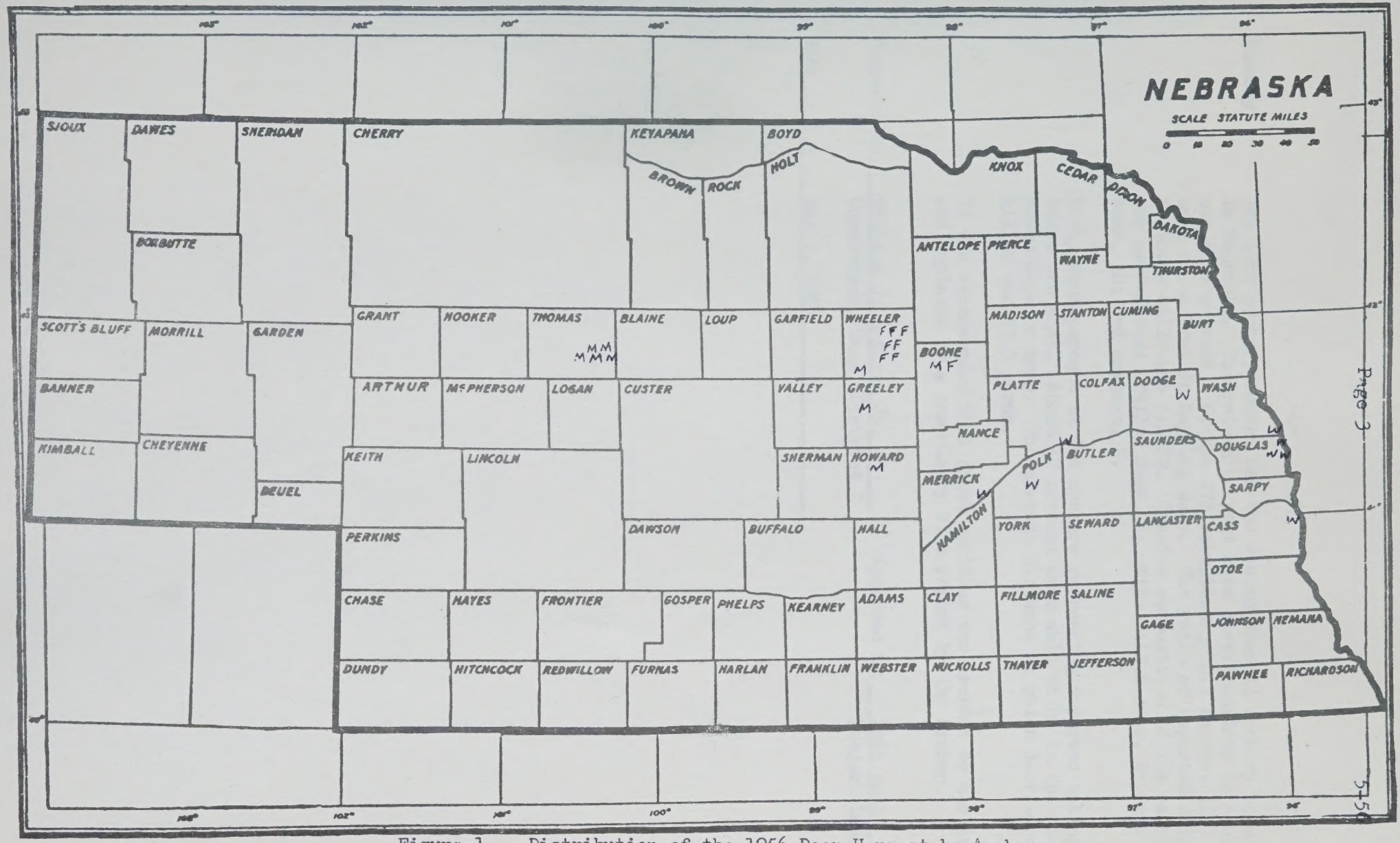

Figure 1. Distribution of the 1956 Deer Harvest by Archers.

M - Mule Deer W - Whitetailed Deer F - Fallow Deer

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Summary: The 1956 archery season was the second special archery season in Nebraska. The return of post card questionnaires to archers was 65.2 percent. Of the 275 permittees, 10.2 percent (28) were successful in bagging deer. The ratio of reported cripples to known kills was 1:1.12. Species composition of the harvest was as follows: fallow deer, 8; white-tailed deer, 8; mule deer, 10; and unknown, 2.

Sixty-four percent of the archers responding reported taking at least one shot. About 42 percent were able to be in the field seven days or more. The average distance at which deer were killed was 29.3 yards.

It was recommended that check stations for archers by abolished and replaced by a compulsory kill report by the archer.

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Approved by Phil Agee
Project Leader

Date May 1, 1957

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